

Missouri Assessment Program
Spring 2002

Social Studies

Released Items
Grade 8

Confidential

Directions

In a speech to a women's convention held in Akron, Ohio, in the mid-1880s, Elizabeth Cady Stanton proposed a new approach to raising girls. Read the speech excerpt below. Use your own knowledge and the excerpt to do Numbers 14 through 16.

Dear Friends: The great work before us is the education of those just coming on the stage of action. Begin with the girls of today, and in 20 years we can revolutionize this nation. The childhood of woman must be free and unrestrained.

The girl must be allowed to romp and play, climb, skate, and swim. Her clothes must be more like those of the boy—strong, loose-fitting garments, thick boots, etc.—so that she may be out at all times and enter freely into all kinds of sports. Teach her to go alone, by night and day, if need be, on the lonely highway or through the busy streets of the crowded city.

The manner in which all courage and self-reliance is educated out of the girl, her path portrayed with dangers and difficulties that never exist, is sad indeed.

Better, far, suffer occasional insults or die outright than live the life of a coward or never move without a protector. The best protector any woman can have, one that will serve her at all times and in all places, is courage. This she must get by her own experience.

The girl must early be impressed with the idea that she is to be “a hand, not a mouth”—a worker, not a drone—in the great hive of human activity. Like the boy, she must be taught to look forward to a life of self-dependence and to prepare herself early for some trade or profession.

Do you think women thus educated would long remain the weak, dependent beings we now find them? By no means. Depend upon it, as educated capitalists and skilled laborers, they would not be long in finding their true level in political and social life.



Courtesy Library of Congress

Elizabeth Cady Stanton with one of her seven children.

14 Elizabeth Cady Stanton fought for women's suffrage, which is

- (F) the right of women to vote
- (G) the right of women to assemble peaceably
- (H) the right of women to get an education
- (J) the right of women to own property

15

Elizabeth Cady Stanton wrote a Declaration of Sentiments to appeal for women’s rights at the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848. In this speech, she states “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men and women are created equal.” To which document was she referring? What is one probable reason she used ideas from this document in her speech?

16

What were three things Elizabeth Cady Stanton hoped to achieve by educating girls differently from the way they had been educated in the past?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Directions

Read these two excerpts from the book *The Rain Forest*. Use your own knowledge and the excerpts to do Numbers 18 through 20.

ENDANGERED FORESTS

The following countries all have at least 2,500,000 acres of tropical rain forest remaining—an area slightly larger than America’s Yellowstone National Park—even though all lost rain forest at a rapid rate during the 1980s. At least 2.5 percent of the forests were lost each year in the 80s, and if this rate of

destruction continues, says the World Resources Institute, all the remaining forest in these countries, except some small areas protected by national parks, will be gone in about thirty years. And even those parks might not offer enough of the different kinds of plants that are necessary for rain forests to thrive.

AFRICA

Ivory Coast
Nigeria

ASIA

Nepal
India
Sri Lanka
Thailand

LATIN AMERICA

Costa Rica
Nicaragua
Paraguay



SLASH-AND-BURN AGRICULTURE

Not all indigenous* peoples of the tropical rain forest are nomadic hunter-gatherers. Some get much of their food by raising crops on small forest plots in a method called *slash-and-burn agriculture*. First, they cut down all the trees on a plot of land. Then they burn whatever is left. The dirt of the rain forest is usually not good for growing crops, but burning turns the forest plants into a fertilizer for the ground.

The newly enriched earth can yield good crops for a few years.

After all the nutrients in the soil are used up, a farmer abandons the plot and creates a new one elsewhere. In time, the forest grows over the plot, making it possible for the slash-and-burn technique to be used again. This way of farming works well for small groups of people and only harms the forest when it is done on a large scale.

*indigenous: native

18 What is the main way that the slash-and-burn technique benefits farmers?

- (F) It preserves native plant life.
- (G) It kills weeds for many years.
- (H) It keeps soil fertile indefinitely.
- (J) It puts nutrients back into the soil.

19 Which of these is a **DISADVANTAGE** of slash-and-burn farming?

- (A) Fields are only usable for a few years.
- (B) Forests will never grow again in the area.
- (C) Fires reduce the fertility of the soil in the area.
- (D) Farmers are able to grow only one type of crop on the land.

Go On 

20

You have a friend who was troubled by an article she read about the loss of rain forests in the Amazon River region. She asked you what she could do to try to protect the rain forests from being destroyed in the future. You may or may not agree with your friend's concerns, but you do have some ideas about what she could do to further the cause in which she believes. Explain two things your friend could do to help reduce the loss of rain forests.

1. _____

2. _____
